

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /079 W  
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R 221608Z JUL 77  
FM USMISSION USBERLIN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4956  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION USNATO  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 1931

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: PGOV, WB, UR, GE, US, UK, FR  
SUBJECT: EAST GERMAN ARMY NEWSPAPER DENIES ALLIED RIGHTS IN EAST  
BERLIN

1. SUMMARY. VOLKSARMEE, AN EAST GERMAN WEEKLY AIMED PRIMARILY AT MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT IN EAST GERMANY, HAS DENIED THE FOUR-POWER STATUS OF GREATER BERLIN IN FAMILIAR TERMS. HOWEVER, SOME OF THESE FORMULATIONS ARE MADE PUBLIC FOR THE FIRST TIME. END SUMMARY.

2. THE JUNE 24 ARTICLE IS WRITTEN BY ALFONS STEINIGER, PRESIDENT OF GDR-BASED UN LEAGUE AND PROFESSOR OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AT HUMBOLDT UNIVERSITY. STEINIGER IS REGARDED AS THE FOREMOST GDR LEGAL AUTHORITY ON BERLIN QUESTION.

3. STEINIGER WRITES THAT OCCUPATION RIGHTS OVER ALL OF BERLIN WERE "EXTINGUISHED" BECAUSE "THE WESTERN OCCUPATION POWERS HAVE BY MASSIVE 'MISUSE' OVER DECADES WORKED THEMSELVES OUT OF  
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THOSE RIGHTS." ONLY SPECIFIC "MISUSE" ATTRIBUTED BY ARTICLE TO ALLIES IS THE "ILLEGAL" 1948 CURRENCY REFORM WHICH BROUGHT ABOUT THE ORIGINAL SIN OF THE DIVISION OF BERLIN AND DESTROYED THE FUNCTION OF BERLIN AS A CAPITAL AS IT HAD BEEN CONCEIVED BY THE POTSDAM AGREEMENT THAT FORESAW A UNIFIED, ANTI-FASCIST-DEMOCRATIC GERMANY. THE ARTICLE SAYS THE LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE RIGHTS OF THE

WESTERN POWERS IN EAST BERLIN WERE THEREBY EXTINGUISHED. ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF LEGAL AS WELL AS ADMINISTRATIVE RIGHTS IN EAST BERLIN BURIES EVEN DEEPER ON-TIME EASTERN POSITION THAT ALLIED ACTIVITIES IN BERLIN NEVER AMOUNTED TO MORE THAN CERTAIN "ADMINISTRATIVE" FUNCTIONS AUTHORIZED BY THE POTSDAM AGREEMENT. (SOVIETS BASED OLD ARGUMENT ON TITLE OF ONE OF LONDON PROTOCOLS, WHICH READS "PROTOCOL ON ZONES OF OCCUPATION IN GERMANY AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE 'GREATER BERLIN' AREA, APPROVED BY THE EUROPEAN ADVISORY COMMISSION, SEPTEMBER 12, 1944.")

4. STEINIGER REPEATS FAMILIAR EASTERN LINE THAT THE FOUR POWER STATUS APPLIES ONLY TO "WESTBERLIN." HE FALSIFIES THE KEY PHRASE OF THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT CONCERNING THE VITAL "TIES" (BINDUNGEN) BETWEEN THE WESTERN SECTORS OF BERLIN AND THE FRG BY ATTACKING AS A "VIOLATION OF THE TEXT AND THE SENSE OF THE AGREEMENT" THE USE OF THE WORD "TIES" TO DESCRIBE THE "CLEARLY CIRCUMSCRIBED CONNECTIONS" BETWEEN THE TWO. HE USES SHARP LANGUAGE IN DESCRIBING THE MAY 9 LONDON SUMMIT DECLARATION ON BERLIN AS "HOSTILE TO THE PEOPLE'S RIGHTS, UNSUITED TO SURVIVE, AND INIMICAL TO DETENTE." STEINIGER SWEEPINGLY CONCLUDES THE "INVENTION OF OCCUPATION RIGHTS IN THE CAPITAL OF THE GDR" TO BE A "PROVOCATIVE AND ILLUSIONARY VENTURE" WHICH ULTIMATELY HARMS THE SECURITY OF EUROPE AND THE PERMANENT RESIDENTS OF WEST BERLIN.

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5. COMMENT: VOLKSARMEE ARTICLE, AS FIRST GDR PUBLIC REFERENCE TO FAMILIAR ARGUMENTS ABOUT MISUSE OF ALLIED RIGHTS IN EAST BERLIN, RECALLS PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS WITH ABRASIMOV ON ALLIED FLAG TOURS AND SUGGESTS SOVIETS MAY FURTHER PURSUE ISSUE OF "MISUSE." APPEARANCE IN GDR MILITARY NEWSPAPER IS CONSISTENT WITH SOVIET MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN THIS MATTER, ALREADY EVINCED BY INTEREST DISPLAYED BY ONE OF HIGHEST-RANKING SOVIET GENERALS IN GDR WHEN HE SUGGESTED IN MAY TO BRITISH CHIEF OF STAFF IN BERLIN THAT MORE SOVIET MILITARY PRESENCE IN WEST BERLIN COULD BE EXPECTED (USBER 1269).

GEORGE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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